

ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE (ABTEL) MEETING

MINUTES May 19, 2003

Meeting Date and Location: May 19, 2003
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Sharon Condrey	Mark Glaser	Dale Sander
Nancy Davenport	Margaret Shibley Gray	J. David Smith
Judy Davis-Dorsey	Linda Kelly	Susan Walton
Ron Diss	Jane Massey-Wilson	Rena` White
Ken Fleming	Nancy Miller	

ABTEL Members Absent: Mark Ingerson
Cheryl Lightfoot
Suzanne Meyer
Donna Smith
Rita Thompson

Board of Education Liaison: Susan T. Noble (absent)

Ex-Officio Member: Toni Cleveland

Department of Education Staff: Thomas A. Elliott
Patricia Burgess
JoAnne Y. Carver
Byrd Latham
Richard Layman
Patty S. Pitts
Thomas Suh
Linda Wallinger

Guests: Lisa Baptiste, Fairfax County Schools
Betty Lambdin, Va. Education Association
Firgia Nieves, Fairfax County Schools
Judi Swingen, Chesterfield County Schools
Yolanda Young, Norfolk City Schools

FULL BOARD MEETING

Dr. Jane Massey-Wilson, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on May 19, 2003, and welcomed members and guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Nancy Davenport made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Linda Kelly seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. David Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2003, advisory board meeting. Rena` White seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item A: ABTEL's Resolution to the Board of Education on a Reading Assessment for the Endorsements of Reading Specialist, Special Education, and Elementary prek-3 and prek-6.

The Virginia Board of Education approved the resolution to require a reading assessment for the endorsements of reading specialist, special education, and elementary prek-3 and prek-6. Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, assistant superintendent for teacher education and licensure, indicated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted, and interested companies may submit proposals for the development of the reading assessment. The RFP is posted on the Department of Education's Web site.

The reading instructional assessment will become effective July 1, 2004, and a qualifying score will not be in effect until July 1, 2006.

Agenda Item B: A Report on ABTEL's Subcommittee on Reading

ABTEL's Subcommittee on Reading was composed of the following members: Sharon Condrey, chair; Ron Diss; Cheryl Lightfoot, and Suzanne Meyer. The charge of the subcommittee was to make recommendations to ABTEL for in-service requirements for elementary and special education teachers and reading specialists.

The committee presented recommendations for discussion to improve reading instruction. After discussion and review, **Susan Walton made a motion to recommend to the Board of Education the following options be considered for in-service elementary and special**

education teachers and reading specialists to demonstrate proficiency in the teaching of reading:

- 1. Take (and pass when the qualifying score has been established) the state-adopted Reading Instructional Assessment;**
- 2. Complete college course work focusing on the essential skills of reading (phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency); or**
- 3. Participate in locally-designed, high quality professional development based on the five essential components of reading instruction, including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency; the licensure requirements for instructional personnel; and the specifications used to develop or modify the reading assessment.**

In addition, college and university programs must continue aligning programs with the essential components of reading instruction. Requirements for middle and secondary education in reading should continue. In considering restructuring in administration and supervision programs, a graduate-level component in reading should be incorporated.

Sharon Condrey seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Jane Massey-Wilson and ABTEL members commended Sharon Condrey and subcommittee members for their excellent work on this project.

Agenda Item C: Highly Qualified Teachers and Paraprofessionals—An Update

Patty Pitts presented an update on proposed revisions to align the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel with No Child Left Behind legislation and revised Standards of Learning. The proposed revisions will be posted on the Department of Education's Web site upon approval by the Board of Education.

Patty Pitts also shared with ABTEL members Superintendent's Memorandum Number 56, dated April 4, 2003, regarding the state qualifying score for the ParaPro assessment. During the March 26, 2003, meeting, the Board of Education approved an initial Virginia qualifying score for the ParaPro assessment of 455.

Agenda Item D: Virginia Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant: Organizational Plan and Initiatives

Dr. Richard Layman, director of the Teacher Quality Enhancement Office, presented the organizational plan and initiatives of the Governor's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant (\$13.5 million over a three-year period).

Dr. Layman introduced staff members, Linda Wallinger and Thomas Suh. In addition, he indicated that the staff also includes Joy Baytops and Priscilla Clayborne.

The presentation provided an overview of initiatives in the following four areas: comprehensive data collection system; enhanced teacher recruitment initiatives; high-quality teacher preparation programs; and the development and retention of high-quality teachers. Personnel in the Department of Education are continuing the implementation of the Governor's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant with initiatives designed to:

- Develop a comprehensive data collection system that can drive Virginia's teacher quality agenda;
- Create "grow your own" teacher recruitment programs, including a Virginia "Teach-In" event in the spring of 2004 to attract a wider and more diverse pool of teaching applicants in Virginia;
- Create a statewide job bank and electronic hiring hall;
- Strengthen the content knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, English, and history and social science of elementary and middle-level teachers new to the profession;
- Strengthen the alignment between student and teaching standards;
- Provide funding incentives to assist institutions of higher education that develop collaborative programs with schools of education and arts and sciences to target areas of critical teacher shortage;
- Propose and pilot a multi-tiered performance-based licensure system based on career pathways that reward professional knowledge and skills in the teaching profession;
- Design and pilot a system that encourages lead teachers to assume additional leadership responsibilities; and
- Design and pilot high-quality training for mentor teachers and a standard evaluation system for Virginia's Mentor Teacher Program.

Agenda Item E: Become a Special Education Teacher in Virginia: "Smart People with Big Hearts"

Dr. Patricia Burgess, specialist for special education human resources development, shared the public relations initiative, "Become a Special Education Teacher in Virginia: "Smart People with Big Hearts." This initiative, to increase the pool of applicants in special

education, includes television and radio public announcements, as well as a live call center Web site. Individuals can visit the Web address, teachva.org, for more information. ABTEL members viewed the television announcements to encourage individuals to choose a career as a special educator.

Agenda Item F: Instructional Personnel Survey: Virginia's Performance Targets (NCLB)

Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver presented information on the Instructional Personnel Survey. The Board of Education will establish annual performance goals, as required by NCLB, that are due to the U.S. Department of Education in September.

All school divisions reported data on the Instructional Personnel Survey. The data must be verified by school divisions before the statewide percentage of classes taught by highly qualified personnel is calculated and presented to the Board of Education. Based on this data, performance targets will be established statewide.

In addition to the number of classes in Virginia taught by highly qualified teachers, Virginia must report the number of teachers receiving high quality professional development. Eighty-five percent of teachers received high quality professional development.

Information on highly qualified paraprofessionals must be reported to the U.S. Department of Education. A few school divisions have not reported data; however, 128 school divisions reported the employment of approximately 1,300 paraprofessionals with 300 to 400 highly qualified.

The following timetable has been established to ensure timely reporting of the information on highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals:

May 9, 2003	Final date for school divisions to report to the Department of Education
May 23, 2003	Institute for Virginia School Personnel (technical assistance meeting sponsored by the Virginia Association of School Personnel Administrators and the Virginia Department of Education)
June 25, 2003	Report to the Board of Education for first review on Virginia's performance targets
July 25, 2003	Final Action of the Board of Education on Virginia's Performance targets
August 2003	Annual measurable objectives for state performance targets prepared for submission to the U.S. Department of Education

Agenda Item G: 2002-03 ABTEL Report to the Board of Education

The annual report to the Board of Education will be presented on behalf of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure by Jane Massey-Wilson, ABTEL chair, on May 28, 2003. Initiatives for the 2002-03 year included the following: the resolution to enhance the teaching of reading in Virginia, special education Praxis II validation and standard setting studies, Annual Report on Teacher Preparation in Virginia, highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals, and recognition of retiring ABTEL members. By consensus, the annual report was approved by ABTEL.

ABTEL's Issues of Interest

Dr. Mark Glaser inquired about his suggestion that advisory board members accrue 180 points toward licensure renewal every five years. Dr. Elliott responded that the Board of Education's position is that the licensure renewal regulations provide a mechanism to allow school divisions to award points for participation on boards, such as ABTEL. Dr. Glaser withdrew his request for consideration.

Remarks from Retiring ABTEL Members

Dr. Jane Massey-Wilson, Ken Fleming, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Mark Glaser, and Susan Walton expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the advisory board. They commended ABTEL members for their commitment and dedication to instructional personnel and children in the commonwealth. They expressed their appreciation to staff members for their assistance throughout their tenure on ABTEL.

LIAISON REPORTS

No formal report was presented by the Virginia Community College System and the State Council of Higher Education. However, it was mentioned that the Education Commission of the States funded the Virginia Community College System to take a team to Colorado to discuss the role of community colleges in teacher preparation.

Department of Education

In planning for next year, ABTEL meetings will be scheduled usually the third Monday in the months of September, November, January (fourth Monday), March, and April unless the date conflicts with holidays or spring break.

The Board of Education is anticipated to receive nominations for the eight ABTEL vacancies for first review on May 28, 2003, and final review on June 25, 2003.

All 23 community colleges have been invited to attend a meeting on June 6, 2003, at J. Sargeant Reynolds to begin planning and implementing career switcher programs in at least each of the eight regions of the state.

Linda Kelly, ABTEL member, was congratulated on establishing a scholarship fund in career and technical education. As regional teacher of the year in 1999, she established a scholarship fund with a \$2,500 grant received, and she was commended on continuing that initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jane Massey-Wilson, ABTEL chair, adjourned the meeting.

The advisory board members, staff members, and guests gave Dr. Massey-Wilson a standing ovation, recognizing her exemplary work as the chair of the advisory board.